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**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights
situations and reports of special rapporteurs
and representatives**

Letter dated 2 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a text of the Open Questionnaire to the United Nations issued by the Korean Institute for the Research of Human Rights of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 23 November 2016 with regard to a "resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK" tabled in the Third Committee of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2016 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document under agenda item 68 (c) of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly and send a document of answers of the United Nations to the Open Questionnaire to the Permanent Mission of the DPRK to the United Nations.

(Signed) **Ja Song Nam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 2 December 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Know about the genuine human rights situation in the DPRK, most advantageous in the world, and put an immediate stop to the mean tricky farce

Open Questionnaire to the United Nations

With the reckless anti-DPRK "sanctions" fever of the US-led hostile forces and their mean tricky farces going to the extreme, the Third Committee of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly railroaded on 15 November a "resolution on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

That the US, some EU countries following it, the Japanese reactionaries and other riff-raff adopted another "resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK", claiming "accountability of the DPRK leadership for human rights violation", "grave concern about nuclear and missile development in disregard of the people's living" and "violation of the rights of workers sent abroad", is an unpardonable violation of the sovereignty of the DPRK and a grave act of State-sponsored terrorism aimed at overthrowing its system.

In particular, they even maliciously hurt, by abusing the United Nations, the supreme dignity of the DPRK, which all its service personnel and people regard as the whole of their life, destiny and future. This is an act of A-class provocation which deserves a resolute and merciless punishment.

It has been confirmed once again that the United Nations, an international organization that is duty-bound to respect in every way possible the sovereignty and interests of countries and nations, has lost international justice, impartiality and objectivity and been reduced to an instrument of high-handedness and arbitrariness committed by the US-led foul and hostile forces.

We ask the United Nations.

Has it ever made an effort, even to the slightest degree, to learn about the truth before discussing willy-nilly the "human rights issue in the DPRK", which is run through with preposterous contents that grossly distort the truth?

Expressing resentment at the unreasonable behaviour of the United Nations, which adopted the self-opinionated "resolution" without a single visit to the country concerned while interfering in the internal affairs of the dignified sovereign State at the instigation of the forces hostile towards it, being bereft of the decency appropriate to an authoritative international organization, we send it the following questionnaire:

1. Does the United Nations know about the eye-opening realities in the DPRK, in which the ordinary working masses, as masters of society, are exercising genuine political rights, the basic criterion of human rights?

The basic criterion of human rights is the political rights.

The rights of a man, a social being, are expressed most clearly in his political life.

In the DPRK, all people, in equal status, participate in State politics, including election to the power organs, and are realizing their ideals and wishes by enrolling themselves in the political parties and social organizations according to their opinions and demands.

That the ordinary workers, farmers and working intellectuals discuss political affairs of the State as deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly and conduct the sociopolitical activities freely according to their abilities is a universal and everyday scene in DPRK society.

This dreamlike scene is beyond imagination in the US and other capitalist countries, in which money has become an absolute condition for participation in politics and one cannot enjoy even the elementary political rights if one is penniless.

The United Nations must throw away the cloak covering the US, a "model of human rights" and a "free world", and see its true features.

Once an American author, in his book *Running for Governor*, branded the candidates as "thieves", "robbers", "swindlers", "stewbums" and "frauds". An election funds investigation centre lamented that "the presidential candidates are similar possibly to bank robbers".

The Central People's Radio of China, criticizing the melee in the recent presidential election in the US, exposed that this year's election cost over \$6 billion, while the previous election cost \$2 billion.

It is reported that \$2 million is needed to be elected a US senator and \$10 million to be re-elected.

As a result, while a handful of persons, propertied and privileged, hold sway over State administration, and State policies represent their interests only, the absolute majority of the ordinary people, suffering from rightlessness and poverty, cannot exercise even elementary political rights and are neglected by society as basket cases.

As these phenomena can be witnessed in downtown New York, where the United Nations Headquarters is situated, the United Nations may know about them better than others. But since it keeps its mouth shut tightly over these stark realities and is picking a quarrel with the situation of human rights in the DPRK, to which it has never paid a visit, we cannot but ask whether this is "international justice for human rights" pursued by the United Nations.

With dignity and pride, we say to the whole world: there is no better country in the world than ours, where the genuine political rights of the working masses are in full bloom.

If the United Nations is truly concerned about human rights, it would be proper behaviour for it to draw its attention to the realities in the DPRK, praise it and encourage other countries to follow its example.

However, by shutting its eyes to the shining realities in the DPRK and passing a preposterous "resolution", claiming "terror politics" and "suppression of people

for political reasons" by cobbling together a stream of invective, the United Nations has tarnished its own image. To see that the stream of invective was spit out to eke out a living by the scum of the earth, who ran away to such a stenchy society as south Korea after committing unexpiated crimes against their motherland and fellow people, how shameful it is!

We take this opportunity to clarify once again the human rights in the DPRK reliably guaranteed by the people's democratic dictatorship.

Dealing strictly according to law with the hostile elements in and out who have violated the rights of the working masses, those who have committed evil acts overtly and covertly to overthrow the base of people's life, the criminals of violence who have undermined social stability and other enemies of the people is a perfectly lawful activity to safeguard the people.

If showing mercy even to those who have betrayed their motherland and challenged its system is "guaranteeing" human rights, then the US, before any other country, must set free all the countless inmates in its prisons and other detention centres.

The United Nations must be fully aware that distorting with a malicious mind the true human rights situation in the DPRK and making a false charge against it, claiming "tyranny" and "human rights violation", is itself an extremely atrocious crime of violating the rights of all the people of the dignified sovereign State.

2. Does the United Nations know about the reality of the DPRK, in which the interests of the people are prioritized and everything is concentrated on improving the people's living standards despite the persistent sanctions and pressure by the US and other hostile forces?

In the recent "resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK", the United Nations, to justify the unfair resolution, claimed that the DPRK is developing only nuclear weapons and missiles in disregard of the people's living, adding its "grave concern".

We cannot but feel aghast at the narrow and fuzzy view of the United Nations, allegedly the most dignified international organization.

It is a consistent policy of the DPRK to attach the greatest importance to the people's livelihoods, improve their material and cultural standards of living and provide them with a happier life.

We do not feel the need to enumerate all the legendary tales, born of the policy of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people.

An example should suffice to prove the realities of the DPRK: this year, new streets and villages of the socialist style sprang up in a matter of two months in the northern part of the country, which had been swept by an unprecedented natural disaster.

To build these streets and villages in the devastated five counties and one city in the northern tip within a short period in the face of the vicious sanctions and blockade by the US and other hostile forces was an uphill task no one could dare to set about with ordinary courage.

However, it was the intention of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un that the people's interests should be put above all national affairs and that the people in the damaged areas should be made not to feel difficulties even though it would cost the whole wealth of the country. Responding to his call, all the service personnel and people performed a miracle of turning the misfortune into a blessing in the breath-catching speed in the Mallima era.

This can never be imitated or dreamed about in the money-is-almighty capitalist society.

Whenever they are reminded of the disastrous sinking of the *Seonol*, which claimed hundreds of young lives, the south Korean people wake up in a fright even at midnight and weep. These two events clearly testify the totally different human rights situations in the north and south of Korea.

When the children were crying out so eagerly for help in the cold sea, nobody tried to save them from drowning. At that time, the south Korean President, Park Geun Hye, was suspected to have been put under anaesthesia for seven hours in order to remove the wrinkles on her face. As the suspicion turned out to be a fact, the world was struck with astonishment.

As such cold-blooded ones are in power, various calamities like MERS and Zika virus continuously happen in south Korea and the people express their worries. Only evil news is waiting for us every day, which is the safe area in this land?

It is outrageous that perpetrators of human rights violations, who deserve to be punished by Heaven, say something like the "human rights issue" in the DPRK, which has developed into a grand flower garden of human rights under benevolent care, and it is an international disgrace that the United Nations is keeping step with the puppet clique by relaying their filthy grumbles.

The DPRK is strengthening its nuclear forces qualitatively and quantitatively to defend the base of people's happiness built at the cost of their blood and sweat and their true rights.

The Korean nation was subjected to colonial slavery by an insular country for 40 years in the last century as they did not have military forces with which to defend themselves. This tragedy still remains as a bitter experience in their hearts.

Worse still, the US is eagerly watching for a chance for a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the DPRK to realize its ambition for supremacy in north-east Asia, and the pro-Japanese lackeys in south Korea, who faithfully served for the Japanese, and their descendants transformed themselves into pro-US lackeys and are acting recklessly to invade the DPRK. In the face of this reality, it is too natural for the DPRK to strengthen its self-defence capability of justice, including nuclear weapons, in order to defend the destiny of the country and nation and genuine rights of its people, and no one can pick a quarrel with this.

Had the DPRK not possessed nuclear deterrent, a nuclear war would have already broken out on the Korean peninsula, the right of the Korean nation to existence would have been eliminated and a third world war might have broken out as a chain reaction. Can the United Nations deny this fact?

The United Nations must be attentive to the declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea that the various kinds of nuclear warheads, small, light and diversified, and the ballistic missiles with a high level of striking capability, born of its line of promoting economic construction and building up the nuclear forces in parallel, are needed also to defend the precious people and acquire a fresh understanding of the genuine human rights.

3. Does the United Nations know about the reality of the DPRK, which substantially guarantees and provides the genuine human rights, including the right to education, the right to health and the right to work?

It is a consistent policy of the DPRK Government to protect and steadily promote the rights of the masses of the people on its own responsibility.

All the people in the DPRK enjoy the benefits of the advantageous people-oriented policies, including comprehensive free medical care and universal free education, to their heart's content and exercise their genuine rights in all realms of social life.

Administration and policies pursued by the DPRK would be the best in the world in the aspect of ensuring the right to education.

Decades ago, the DPRK enforced a universal free compulsory education system, the best educational system in the world, commanding the world's admiration as a country of learning. Today, it has advanced the slogan of making all its people well-versed in science and technology and is training all the members of society, including workers and farmers, as intelligent workers with university-standard qualifications, as developers of science and technology.

By putting forward education as a patriotic undertaking of everlasting significance for the prosperity of the country and nation, the DPRK enforced universal 12-year compulsory education, a new, higher stage of general secondary education, even though everything is in short supply, and everyone learns modern science and technology through the distance education system. Witnessing this surprising reality, many foreigners expressed their admiration, saying: "The DPRK is rushing towards the status of a civilized socialist country on the basis of its advanced education system".

This is beyond imagination in capitalist countries, where education, which is sacred, has long ago been turned into marketing and the ennobling campus into a means of making money, and in the corrupt south Korea, where every privilege is provided to the sons and daughters of the rich and the powerful by establishing a special course to enrol them.

In the DPRK, people are free from worries about medical treatment and work and lead a happy life in good health, enjoying the benefits of universal free medical service.

People with an objective concept of the DPRK would recognize that only this country established long ago a people-oriented health system, exercising free medical service and the policy on preventive medicine.

Hospitals and clinics with full medical facilities for the health and well-being of the people are established in every ri, county, city and province, all the hospital

staff donate their blood, flesh and bone unhesitatingly for patients, and medical workers visit households on their beat.

In recent years, specialized hospitals, sanatoriums and holiday camps, fully equipped with state-of-the-art medical facilities, have been built in every part of the country, including the Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and Ryugyong Dental Hospital, thus contributing to the promotion of ordinary people's health.

How can these realities be compared to the ghastly and cruel ones in the capitalist world, where the precious life of human beings is decided by money?

In the US, normal hospital charges are \$5,760, general blood test fee \$150, experimental test fee over \$170, ultrasound test fee \$557 and biological structure test fee \$223.

In south Korea, one round of comprehensive medical check-up costs \$100-400 and the hospital charge for a day is \$100-300 in Seoul. As a result, 20 per cent of the total households could not even think of going to hospital.

We advise you, riff-raff, who are too obsessed with the "human rights issue" of the DPRK: if you feel too shameful to visit the country because of the crime you have committed, have a talk with those who visited it and witnessed the dreamlike scene presented by the free medical care system.

Then you will feel unable to resist the impulse to commit suicide because of the hatred for yourselves for insulting the shining paradise as a hell until now.

The US and other hostile forces are now contriving other impure rackets like "forced labour" and "exploitation of the workers abroad" as the true colour of the "human rights in the DPRK" racket is uncovered in detail by the eye-opening events in the DPRK in which an epoch-making change is taking place day after day.

In this country, there is no sign of the unemployed that number 12.8 million roaming the streets of the US, and it is unimaginable to find workers grieving over the sorrow of part-time jobs and holding demonstrations and rallies in protest against the anti-popular policies like poor working conditions, forced dismissal and wage reduction, like those in south Korea.

The working people in the DPRK are leading a worthwhile and happy working life, enjoying the right to work to their heart's content and devoting their creative enthusiasm to the full under the most advantageous labour system.

Its workers abroad, with the dignity of making a contribution to the prosperity of their motherland, are also leading an abundant life and receiving enough rewards without feeling an iota of worry over their families back in their motherland.

If you want to learn why the singing and laughter of the parentless children resound and why the elderly with no children of their own live in happiness and comfort in this land, it would be advisable to visit the baby homes, orphanages, primary and secondary schools for orphans and rest homes, upon which solicitude of every kind is bestowed.

The bustling streets in capitalist countries, in which the life of luxury and dissipation of the privileged class of 1 per cent are intertwined under the

glimmering neon lights, whereas the working people of 99 per cent, who are living under the poverty line, are left in the darkness, cannot be a symbol or a criterion of human rights.

You must know that the Korean-style socialist system centred on the masses is the ideal land for humanity and earthly paradise which cannot be compared to the benevolence proposed by Jesus Christ which the West so praises, equality by Muhammad, mercy by Sakyamuni and benign administration by Confucius all combined.

4. Does the United Nations know that daring to hurt and slander the supreme dignity of the DPRK is an unpardonable, A-class provocation against all its service personnel and people and it would invite their merciless retaliation and punishment?

This country and this land are getting heated as a whole.

No one can predict when and where the wrath of this country would burst out against the dens of evil.

All the service personnel and people are boiling with rage against the open rashness by the impure, hostile forces, who attempted to deny the feeling of kinship between the leader and the people, who share their destiny, and separate them by taking issue even with the supreme dignity of the country.

The forces who run amok for hostile acts against the DPRK must clearly know the sacredness of the supreme dignity of the DPRK, which its service personnel and people treasure as more valuable than their lives.

The supreme leadership of the country represents the life, destiny and future of its service personnel and people and the sun at which no one can dare to point his finger.

The supreme leader, with the fervent love for the people which cannot be found in the long human history, is making selfless, devoted efforts day and night solely for the happiness of his people, and the latter regard him as their father and wish for his well-being even though they suffer misfortunes in the face of sweeping disaster and are burned to ashes in the raging flames. The United Nations must not misjudge the loyalty of the service personnel and people of this country.

No matter how infected the US-led United Nations is with arbitrariness, self-complacency and invective and no matter how inveterate its prejudice, narrow-mindedness and partiality are, it must be aware that the DPRK is not a country in the Middle East or Africa.

The DPRK is mocking the railroading of the "human rights resolution", devoid of fairness and trustworthiness, as the last-ditch effort of the US, emperor of evil, and its vassal forces that are overpowered by the might of Songun Korea, shining as a nuclear power in the East and a paradise of the people.

If the US and its vassal forces are really concerned with the "human rights issue" in the DPRK, they should not try to seek an excuse for unleashing a nuclear war by using the numerous spy satellites floating over the Korean peninsula, but confirm the remarkable realities of the country, an ideal society of humankind.

We advise any member of the United Nations to come to the DPRK and experience in person the real human rights situation in the country, if they sincerely love justice and truth.

If they have even the slightest degree of intelligence or cool-headed judgment, they will keenly realize for themselves how shameful they have been to have railroaded the "resolution" against the DPRK, a model country of genuine human rights, clamouring for "tyranny" and "human rights violation"

They must do away with their foolish attempts to sling mud at the DPRK by relying on the fabricated facts.

If the United Nations is sincere to maintain its existence and *raison d'être* as an impartial international organization, it must not be reduced to an instrument in carrying out the gangster-like, hostile schemes towards the DPRK committed by the US and its vassal forces under the guise of the "protection" of human rights, but revoke all the unreasonable measures it has taken so far.

The United Nations would be well-advised not to waste time beating the worn-out drum of "human rights issue in the DPRK", but act with discretion, looking squarely at the changed strategic position of the DPRK and the changing trend of the times.

The United Nations must not evade this open questionnaire.

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